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DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

March 10, 1993

Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

Attention: Wayne Hedberg

Reference: Wildlife Impact Summary - February 1993

Dear Mr. Hedberg:

We regret to inform you we had two (2) mule deer mortalities at the Goldstrike Mine during the month of February.

The incident occurred sometime during the night of Wednesday, February 25-26, 1993. On the morning of the 26th a doe and yearling fawn were found at the base of an approximately 50 foot highwall in the Moosehead Pit. The doe was dead and the fawn was alive but unable to move. We relieved the fawn from its suffering and contacted John Schijf of the Division of Wildlife Resources to see if they wanted to attempt to salvage. Mr. Schijf did not feel salvage was advisable and the carcasses were disposed of according to his instructions.

There was a 4" snowfall during the night and possibly the darkness of the overcast night may have contributed to the accident. Because of time constraints and concerns for safety, we did not make an attempt to hike to the top of the wall to try to determine if predators or something had spooked the animals.

There were no leaks detected from the leach pad systems. We did, however, have solutions retrieved from the sumps of some of our ponds.

In looking back at past reports, I observed an omission in reporting pond sump solutions recovered during January. There was nothing during November-December to report.

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MR. WAYNE HEDBERG
WILDLIFE IMPACT SUMMARY

DATE: 03/10/93
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During January there was an unusual weather pattern which stayed in the area causing heavy rainfall. We received 10.7 inches of precipitation during the month of January in addition to 2.47 inches from late December. In addition to this 6.28 inches were received during February. These amounts are extreme when compared to an average of 12.5 inches of precipitation annually in the area. As a consequence our ponds were filled to the limits. An uncontrolled discharge was avoided only by building an additional storage pond (3.7 million gallons) and treating an additional 2.5 million gallons during January and 6.35 million in February to neutralize the cyanide upon release downstream. Because of the extreme levels in the ponds, previously unknown leaks in the primary liners of the barren, recycle and rinse water ponds allowed solution to get between the two (2) HDPE pond liners. This is not an alarming condition as the ponds are designed with collection sumps to recover any such leakage. In fact, leakage is allowed by permit issued by Utah Division of Water Quality and pumps are installed in a collection sump between the liners to keep the collected solutions pumped out.

We did, however, exceed the permitted leakage rate of 200 gallons per day per acre for four (4) days at the pregnant solution pond and for nine (9) days at the process pond during January. Our rinse water pond, which had no water except rainfall prior to January, exceeded the allowable leakage on eight (8) days during February. All ponds are presently operating within allowable limits.

Total solutions recovered from each pond are as follows in gallons:

	Pregnant Pond	Barren Pond	Process Pond	Fresh Water	Rinse Water
January	191	1,221	18,600	32	420
February	160	295	380	18	9,275

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

USMX OF UTAH, INC.

Robert K. Wilson

Robert K. Wilson
Environmental Coordinator

RKW:bas

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